United Nations S/2001/1158

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2001

Original: English

**Letter dated 6 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council**

**Financial contribution of the Netherlands to the Burundi Protection Force pursuant to resolution 1375 (2001)**

I have the honour to refer to the statement by the President of the Security Council on the situation in Burundi of 8 November 2001 and the interim report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the situation in Burundi of 14 November 2001.

The Netherlands welcomes the efforts of the Facilitator of the Burundi peace process, former President Mandela and the leaders of the region in bringing about the installation of a broad-based transitional Government of national unity on 1 November 2001, which has ushered in a new and promising chapter for lasting peace and stability in Burundi. On a number of occasions, the Security Council has reiterated its strong support for the Burundi peace process and the tireless efforts of the Facilitator and those of the regional peace initiative.

The Netherlands commends facilitator Nelson Mandela and the Government of South Africa for initiating the deployment of a security presence. The progress made on the transitional arrangements highlights the urgent need to cease hostilities to allow the full implementation of the Arusha Agreement. The Arusha Agreement also calls upon the international community to contribute to the consolidation of peace in Burundi. Considering the importance of supporting the peace process, in particular the deployment of a multinational security force, the Netherlands, in consultation with the South African Government, has decided to contribute an amount of 1.8 million euros to the Burundi protection force. Pending the development of the situation in Burundi, a further contribution of 2.7 million euros may be considered in 2002.

I should be grateful if you could draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the present letter and have it distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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